

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 L-03 DRC-01 /107 W

----- 072556

R 260550Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2127

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

US MISSION GENEVA 19

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS MELBOURNE 0479

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RUBBER WORKERS THREATEN INTERNATIONAL
ACTION AGAINST MULTI-NATIONALS

1. BARNEY FRENCH, GENERAL SECRETARY, RUBBER WORKERS'
UNION (ARWU) ANNOUNCED APRIL 25, THAT HIS UNION WOULD
CALL NATIONAL STRIKE IF CURRENT DEMANDS FOR A\$30 PER
WEEK, PLUS OTHER BENEFITS, WERE NOT GRANTED BY EMPLOYERS.
AT SAME TIME, FRENCH STATED HE HAD BEEN ASSURED OF
CONCERTED REPRISALS ABROAD AGAINST AFFILIATES OF
AUSTRALIA-BASED MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

2. INDUSTRY AFFECTED INCLUDES FIRESTONE, GOODYEAR,
3M, NORTON ABRASIVES, GENERAL DYNAMICS, AND MANY OTHERS.

3. NEWSPAPER REPORTS INDICATE FRENCH INDEED HAS
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BACKING OF INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF CHEMICAL

WORKERS (IFCGW) WHOSE SECRETARY-GENERAL, CHARLES
LEVINSON, IS IN AUSTRALIA FOR CONFERENCES WITH
AFFILIATES.

4. COMMENT: THIS MOVE WAS FORECAST VAGUELY TWO WEEKS
AGO IN PRESS REPORTS. LABATT FEELS INTERNATIONAL
THREAT IS MERE MUSCLE-FLEXING, ALTHOUGH EMPLOYERS
HAVE TOLD LABATT THEY ARE NOW TAKING IT MORE SERIOUSLY
AFTER LEVINSON ENDORSEMENT. IN ANY EVENT LOCAL
COMPANIES HAVE DECIDED TO MEET MOST OF UNION PACKAGE,
SO NATIONAL STRIKE IS PROBABLY NON-STARTER, DEFUSING
INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW THROUGH. LAST THREE AUSTRALIAN
FEDERAL AWARDS IN RUBBER INDUSTRY WERE BASED ON
MUTUAL CONSENT, NOT GOING TO ARBITRATION AT ANY
STAGE. ALSO FRENCH, 1972 LABOR PARTIAL GRANTEE, IS
IDENTIFIABLE INDUSTRIAL CONSERVATIVE.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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To: STATE
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